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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 TEGUCIGALPA 000862

SIPDIS

STATE FOR TFIZ, PM, IO, S/CT, S/WCI, DRL, NP, EB, AND L  
STATE FOR WHA, WHA/CEN, WHA/USOAS, AND WHA/PPC  
PARIS FOR POL AND UNESCO OBSERVER

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [MOPS](#) [PHUM](#) [AORC](#) [KTIA](#) [KAWC](#) [IZ](#) [HO](#)

SUBJECT: TFIZ01: HONDURAN FM PEREZ-CADALSO GIVES AMB LETTER  
OFFERING TROOPS FOR POST-WAR IRAQ

REF: A. USUN NEW YORK 915

- [1](#)B. STATE 88308
- [1](#)C. TEGUCIGALPA 835
- [1](#)D. TEGUCIGALPA 827
- [1](#)E. TEGUCIGALPA 826
- [1](#)F. TEGUCIGALPA 824
- [1](#)G. STATE 59891

Classified By: Ambassador Larry Palmer; Reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) Summary. Ambassador met April 7 with Honduran Minister of Foreign Affairs Guillermo Perez-Cadalso at the FM's request. Perez-Cadalso gave Ambassador a letter offering to provide Honduran troops for post-war humanitarian needs in Iraq, contingent on congressional approval of such a deployment, which he said should not be a problem. The FM reiterated that the GOH had given instructions to oppose any UNGA debate on Iraq and that the Honduran UN PermRep's instructions were to "follow" AMB Negroponte. Perez-Cadalso told Ambassador that, thanks to the USG's assistance in providing Spanish-language texts, the GOH now had all that it needed to proceed with signing and/or ratifying the five UN and two OAS counterterrorism conventions/protocols still outstanding. The FM gave Ambassador a copy of draft remarks that President Maduro plans to give during the Central American presidents meeting with the President April 10. Perez-Cadalso also said that Maduro was hoping to have a 30-minute meeting with the President on the margins of the Council of the Americas meetings April 28-29 in Washington. The FM said the GOH hoped there would be a final decision on Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Hondurans prior to the April 10 meeting. End Summary.

[1](#)2. (U) Ambassador and PolOff met April 7 with Honduran Minister of Foreign Affairs Guillermo Perez-Cadalso Arias at the MFA to discuss Iraq and other key issues. The meeting was a follow-up to the Ambassador's April 1 meeting with the FM (ref F) and the Ambassador's March 28 meeting with Honduran President Ricardo Maduro (ref E).

UN PermRep Instructions are "Follow Negroponte"

[1](#)3. (C) FM Perez-Cadalso started the meeting by telling Ambassador that he had spoken with Honduran UN PermRep Manuel Acosta Bonilla about Acosta Bonilla's March 26 statement during the United Nations Security Council open debate on Iraq. The FM said that Acosta Bonilla told him that he was trying to speak to the future of post-war Iraq. Perez-Cadalso said that Acosta Bonilla had attended USUN's meeting with the members of the Coalition of the Willing and made his remarks in keeping with what he thought USUN wanted Coalition members to focus on in their statements. The FM said that Acosta Bonilla was friends with U.S. PermRep Negroponte and had been working closely with him in NY. Perez-Cadalso said that Acosta Bonilla's instructions were to "follow Negroponte."

Honduras Will Oppose Iraq Debate in UNGA and UNESCO

[1](#)4. (C) As previously reported, the MFA has instructed its missions at the UN and UNESCO to oppose UNGA debate on Iraq (ref D) as proposed by the Arab League via the Non-Aligned Movement (ref A), and at the UNESCO Executive Board (ref C) as proposed by some countries (ref B). The FM reiterated to the Ambassador that the GOH will vote against any proposed UNGA debate on Iraq.

FM Presents Letter Offering Post-War Troops

[1](#)5. (C) As promised (ref F), the FM gave Ambassador a letter formally offering Honduran participation in post-war "phase IV" operations in Iraq, saying that both President Maduro and Minister of Defense Frederico Breve had approved the offer. The letter details the GOH offer to participate in the humanitarian aspects of the reconstruction of Iraq, including sending troops who specialize in demining and peacekeeping troops. Ambassador thanked Perez-Cadalso for the support of the GOH. The letter notes that any foreign deployment of

Honduran troops must be approved by congress according to the Honduran Constitution. Perez-Cadalso said he did not think that congressional approval would be a problem. Note: Post does expect the GOH to seek congressional approval until after the war is over and the USG had made a more specific request for Honduran troops. End Note. Post has faxed this letter to WHA/CEN and CENTCOM. An informal translation of the letter is in paragraph 12.

#### Embassy Gives MFA Material on Iraqi War Crimes

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16. (SBU) Ambassador gave the FM a copy of the video on the 1988 massacre of Kurds in Halabja with chemical weapons. PolOff had previously given MFA DG for Foreign Policy AMB Mario Fortin written material on Iraqi human rights abuses and war crimes April 3. The Ambassador emphasized that the President's "bold move" in Iraq was bringing the liberation of the people of Iraq. Ambassador noted that he and other top EmbOffs would be meeting with key figures in the Honduran media April 8 to discuss the war in Iraq.

#### FM: GOH Has All it Needs on Counterterrorism Conventions

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17. (SBU) Perez-Cadalso told Ambassador that the GOH now had all it needed on the counterterrorism conventions/protocols and thanked the USG for its assistance in providing Spanish-language texts of the two OAS and five UN CT conventions/protocols that the GOH has yet to sign and/or ratify. PolOff noted that he had accompanied the French DCM April 3 to give a joint G-8 demarche to AMB Fortin on the importance of signing and/or ratifying these conventions/protocols (ref G). Both Fortin and the FM noted the symbolism of the USG and GOF doing a joint demarche. The FM told Ambassador that the MFA would now begin the signature/ratification process and was working with Casa Presidencial to forward for congressional approval the CT conventions pending with the President's office. Note: Since the Ambassador's April meeting with the FM (ref F), Post has provided the MFA with Spanish-language texts of the two ICAO and two IMO outstanding CT conventions/protocols. Post thanks the Department, Embassy London, U.S. Mission Vienna, and the U.S. Mission to ICAO for their assistance in obtaining these texts. End Note.

#### FM Gives AMB Draft Text of Maduro's CAFTA Meeting Remarks

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18. (SBU) The FM gave Ambassador a copy of the April 7 version of President Maduro's draft remarks for the Central American presidents meeting with the President April 10. The text appears to be very similar to what WHA/CEN faxed Post earlier. Post has faxed these draft remarks to WHA/CEN. The FM said that he and President Maduro are traveling to Washington April 9.

#### Maduro Hopes to Meet With the President in Late April

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19. (SBU) Perez-Cadalso said that the GOH was working to set up a half-hour meeting between President Maduro and the President on the margins of the April 28-29 Council of the Americas 33rd Washington Conference at the State Department, where Maduro is scheduled to be a speaker and the President is tentatively scheduled to give the keynote address. The FM said that such a meeting would allow Maduro to raise bilateral issues that will not be raised in the CAFTA meeting with the President.

#### TPS - FM Asks if Decision Will be Made Prior to April 10

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110. (SBU) Perez-Cadalso asked Ambassador if the USG will have a decision on the GOH's request for an extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Hondurans prior to the April 10 meeting between the President and the Central American presidents. Ambassador said that he would ask Washington.

#### GOH Becoming More Active Coalition Participant

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111. (C) Comment. Post is pleased that the GOH seems to be taking a more active role as a member of the Coalition of the Willing, both with the formal offer of troops for post-war Iraq, and with the strong instructions to their missions at the UN and UNESCO to oppose debate on Iraq. This was also the first time in recent memory that a senior GOH official raised the issue of the outstanding counterterrorism conventions/protocols. In the past it has always been USG officials demarching GOH officials to take action. Post intends to hold the GOH to its word that it now has all that it needs as far as Spanish-language texts and will move to sign and/or ratify the outstanding conventions/protocols. End Comment.

Text of Letter Offering Troops for Post-War Iraq

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12. (SBU) Begin text of informal translation of FM  
Perez-Cadalso letter to Ambassador:

Tegucigalpa, M.D.C.  
April 3, 2003

Mr. Ambassador:

I have the honor to address Your Excellency and request your good offices to convey to your government the disposition of the Government of Honduras to make the following offer:

1. Once the war against Iraq is over, with the expected triumph of the coalition forces, Honduras could participate in the humanitarian efforts tending to the reconstruction of that country in two specific areas, providing: a) personnel trained in demining work, and b) personnel trained in peacekeeping operations.

2. It is understood that, in the event this offer were to be accepted, the deployment of the mentioned military personnel, by constitutional mandate, has to be authorized by the National Congress acting upon a request from the Executive Power.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest esteem and consideration.

/s/

Guillermo Perez-Cadalso Arias  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Excellent Mr.  
Larry Palmer  
Ambassador of the United States of America  
Tegucigalpa

End text of informal translation of FM Perez-Cadalso letter  
to Ambassador.  
Palmer